

Letter from Alexander Melville Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, March 3, 1880, with transcript

2 Bulfinch Place, Boston, Mass., March 3rd, 80. (No envelope) My dear Al.,

Your letter to Mr. Forbes(copy) of Feb. 13th, has just reached me from home and the dead letter office; along with your autograph letter of Feb. 26th, and Charley's of Feb. 27th. I need not say how delighted I am at your new great success, and I trust that you may this time escape the harpies that fastened on your good name in connection with the invention of the telephone. Will the disposal of the sealed documents in the Smithsonian be sufficient to prevent any poacher on your ideas from forestalling you in the Patent Office? Should you not also lodge a caveat for your inventions, without describing it further than as a means of phonetic communication without a wire? The draft of our agreement is to be sent for our examination in the course of today. If all is right this time, there need be no further delay in executing it. It takes the form of a transfer of our rights to a trustee. Mr. Forbes is proposed for this office. I should prefer Mr. G. G. Hubbard and all parties would be equally satisfied with him, if he were in Boston to sign the agreements. When we get the draft we shall submit it to Mr. Mugzey before signing. If "Maria" agrees to meet me in Washington 2 I hope we shall get a look at both your babies in a few days. I congratulate you on the new honour and profit from the award of the Volta prize in France.

I shall keep this open in case I have anything to add before mailing it. Meantime much love to all.

I am, Your affectionate father, Alex. Melville Bell.